

THE NEW ACADEMY.

ONLY THE OUTER SHELL OF THE OLD PLAYHOUSE REMAINS.

MODERN AND BEAUTIFUL THEATRE.

Interior Decorated After the Rococo Style--The Improvements Are Complete and Satisfying--The Future Policy of the House.

The old order of things has passed away at the Academy of Music. Only the outer shell of the playhouse remains the same; the interior is altogether unrecognizable.

The alterations and decorations give the house a metropolitan aspect, and the claim that it is to be the prettiest and most convenient theatre south of Philadelphia does not seem unreasonable.

The Academy will be open to the public on the 15th instant. Until the formal opening the public will not be admitted, as Manager Leath hopes that the effect of the alterations will be as great a surprise to every one else as they have been to him.

The house is now being decorated after the Rococo style, in pale pink, yellow, and cream. The ceiling is decorated in blue, with pretty floral designs at the corners and about the walls. The general effect is bright, cheerful, and altogether striking. The floors will be carpeted throughout the building with velvet.

electricity; Morgan Mills, of Richmond, plumbing.

Improvements at the Bijou.

The Bijou Theatre has also undergone extensive alterations and repairs. The stage has been improved, together with the lobby, balcony entrance, and seating accommodations. The house has been artistically decorated, and has been made brighter and more attractive than ever.

BETTER FEELING AT PRETORIA.

Transvaal Government Will Meet Other Side in Conference.

PRETORIA, September 2.—The reply of the Transvaal Government to the imperial government's last dispatch has been received by Conyngham Greene, the British agent here. It is understood that this government is willing to meet the other side in a conference at Cape Town, as suggested, and to explain the working of the new franchise law. The Transvaal Government is also willing to receive the friendly suggestions of the imperial government. A more hopeful feeling prevails here.

GERMAN CORPS AT JOHANNESBURG.

LONDON, September 2.—The Standard and Digby's News today received a cablegram from its Johannesburg office dated yesterday, saying that a German corps of 800 men had been formed there to cooperate with the Boers in the event of war with Great Britain.

The dispatch adds that the Boers could mobilize 2,000 men in three days, while the German Free State could muster 1,000 men in the same period.

POSITION OF THE RAAD.

Continuing, the dispatch says: "Mr. Chamberlain's reply, upholding the emergency of Great Britain, was received by the Raad with a demonstration which unmistakably indicates the intention of the Transvaal to repudiate Great Britain."

THAT SUIT CASE.

(Boston Post.)

Ruth Kenyon was talking earnestly to the girl who sat next to her in the train from Northampton one June day. "No; everything is over between John Baker and me," she was saying vehemently. "Frances, I sent that gentleman an invitation to the junior prom, two months ago, and he not only never answered the letter, but went to the prom with another girl. Such rudeness! I've sent back all his presents and never want to see him again. But, for that matter, I suppose I shall, as I got home. He lives just next door, and always goes home as soon as he can get into it."

"Poor John Baker! I pity him," said the girl, looking out of the window. "Here's your station. Hurry, dear, or you'll be late. Good-by, and we'll meet again at Smith's in September."

"Why, Ruth, I'll pity him as she watched Ruth seize her umbrella and suit case and hurry off the car. Farrington, the driver of the old yellow coach that connected the little out-of-the-way town of Northampton with the rest of the world, was looking up and down the platform. His old eyes brightened when he saw Ruth. "Ben hopin' yer'd come on that train," he said, taking her baggage. "Jump right in. There's only one other passenger, and I reckon you know him."

He opened the coach door and the girl stepped in. With a crack of the whip they were off, almost before Ruth had time to recognize in her fellow-passenger John Baker, Jr.

"Good evening," she said, coldly. "Good evening," was his equally chilly reply.

Nearly every one seemed fully satisfied with the result of the race, especially the owners of the new boat, for the steel mast, which was carried through a race for the first time, certainly improved her speed, enabling her to stand straighter than the Defender, and therefore, to outpoint her. In fact, the Columbia sailed all around the old boat, and but for the softening of the wind as she heeled the line, and the subsequent treading of the Defender, she would have won the race.

It was a stiff brush while it lasted, and the result was certain, no discredit to those on the Defender. Start—Columbia, 1:55.10; Defender, 1:55.25.

Finish—Columbia, 5:22.40; Defender, 5:22.15.

Elapsed time—Columbia, 3:47.05; Defender, 3:53.55.

Columbia won by 6 minutes and 49 seconds.

The Dreyfus Mystery.
(Atlanta Constitution.)

Though the general public is taking great interest in the Dreyfus case, it presents to a great many a sort of mystery. Has this man been so terribly wronged because he is a Jew? The European prejudice against the Jew is well known and notorious, but this prejudice, at its worst, cannot explain the treatment of Dreyfus. Therefore, there is a mystery in the case. The Constitution has already suggested a solution of this mystery, but it is a solution more clearly by the National Review of London, which from the first has taken an extraordinary interest in the case, and which has employed its resources to get at the bottom facts in the affair.

The editor of the Review asserts that the members of the French headquarters staff have for years past engaged in the business of selling confidential information to the foreign military attaches in Paris. In order to increase their small salaries and enable them to keep up their appearances in keeping with their official positions. In this business Dreyfus acted as broker and go-between. He had a retaining fee from the attaché, and in addition, received special pay for any important document that he might secure. To be successful he was compelled to share his spoils with the members of the staff who had access to the coveted documents.

All went well until one day Esterhazy let out the tale of Major von Schwartzkoppen the paper known as the bordereau, which consisted simply of a list of documents which the subsidized French officers were ready to furnish. This bordereau the German attaché never saw. It was delivered while he was absent, and was stolen from his table by a French spy, carried to the French War Office, where it happened to be seen by an outsider before the guilty parties could destroy it. But for the fact that Esterhazy failed to destroy the document, a person who was not privy to the traffic which had been going on, there would have been no Dreyfus case in 1901.

But the presence of the outsider in the War Office at the moment when the bordereau was returned made it absolutely necessary for the traffickers to find a scapegoat. Their dilemma may be imagined. It was absolutely necessary to the safety of all to keep the matter quiet, and the Dreyfus crime was concocted and carried out. He was selected as the scapegoat because he was a Jew with few or no friends on the general staff. When Dreyfus was selected as a victim, Esterhazy, who had been sent to the German Embassy, produced a pistol, and demanded that Major Schwartzkoppen should testify that the Jew was the guilty party. The reply of the major was to kick theascal from the scene.

In selecting Dreyfus as the victim of their awful conspiracy the French officers depended largely on the sympathy and support of the anti-Semites in the French capital. The event justified their expectation, for soon as the name of Dreyfus was suggested the anti-Semites began to fill the air with their howls. Had Esterhazy been arrested his conviction would have dragged down all those who were in selling the secrets of their country.

Having disposed of Dreyfus, the traffic was resumed, and the "leakages" from the War Office were greater after the victim was sent to Devil's Island than before. It was known that Esterhazy, when he was engaged in his nefarious business, received no less than \$10,000 from foreign governments. The rascal has since admitted writing the bordereau, but says he did so at the request of his superior officer to make a legal case against Dreyfus. As a matter of fact, every document enumerated in the bordereau was actually delivered, and is today in the possession of either the German or the Russian War Office.

The French staff has always known who the guilty party was. As to Merck, the National Review says he simply allowed himself to be terrorized by the gamester, and did not know of the criminal in his efforts to convict Dreyfus. The first trial was held behind closed doors, because it was known that the German attaché would not stand by and permit an innocent man to be condemned for delivering documents which he had not given.

Such, briefly stated, is the origin of the Dreyfus case. In no other civilized country in the world at this day and time could such a revolting crime have been committed.

Anecdote of Governor Smith.
(For the Dispatch.)

On the night of the day that Harper's Ferry was over the troops made the night march towards Sharpsburg, stopping in a field about 3 o'clock A. M. The men dropped on the ground exhausted, and slept like the dead. Ex-Governor Smith, who was with the troops, was in getting his regiment ready for marching. He rode up and down the line several times, calling to the men to fall in. Out of patience at last he cried out at the head of his column: "Fall in, you fellows! If you don't I'll march the regiment off and leave every d—n one of you!"

Cuban Editors to Fight.
SANTIAGO DE CUBA, September 2.—Senators Trullio, editor of El Porvenir, and Eduardo Yero, editor of Cubano Libre, will, it is expected, fight a duel tomorrow or Monday morning, in consequence of differences regarding certain questions arising from the election of the City Council.

List of Dead Increasing Daily—Many Small Towns Wiped Out.
WASHINGTON, September 2.—The postmaster at Yauco has reported to the Post-Office Department, under date of August 14th, on the havoc wrought by the recent hurricane. Among other things he says: "The coffee crop throughout the island is ruined, as also are the sugar and tobacco crops. The list of dead is increasing daily, and the suffering of the poor is terrible. The loss to Yauco alone is estimated at \$1,000,000.00; that to Ponce, \$5,000,000.00; that to the whole island, about \$20,000,000.00. In Ponce it is estimated that 20,000 are dead, in Mayaguez nearly as many; in Humacao, 45; Yauco, 8. Many small towns have been completely wiped out."

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ground all round was watered with it, as well as the trunk and the branches, which were especially drenched. The treatment proved successful. The tree gradually recovered, and now stands in its full strength and freshness, but has ever since shown the already described whiteness in its leaves, which presents a by no means unpleasant contrast to the otherwise dark-green foliage.

ASTOR DEAL DISCREDITED HERE.

W. W. Astor's New York Representative's Ridiculous Cabled Reports.

Cable dispatches from London say that Mr. Adams, the English agent of William Waldorf Astor, confirms the report that Mr. Astor has received an offer of \$100,000 for his real estate in this city, and that the offer has been accepted. The agent, according to the dispatches, declined to discuss the details of the transaction, but stated that Mr. Astor had washed his hands of America and American methods, and no longer desired to be connected in any way with his native land.

Charles A. Peabody, Jr., legal representative of Mr. Astor in this country, said yesterday in regard to the London dispatch, that he knew no English agent of Mr. Astor, and that if there was such a person he had never made the statement attributed to him.

"Life is too short to talk about it; the whole thing is absolute nonsense," Mr. Peabody added.

At the office of the Astor estate, No. 21 West Seventy-sixth street, it was said that